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REBOUND

SCARJO BUNKING WITH PENN?

DISH {page 15}

WINNIPEG metro®

Weekend, April 15-17, 2011
www.metronews.ca

News worth sharing.

Struggles trouble chief amid flooding

There's little political will in Ottawa to break cycle as First Nations scramble every year to cope with rising waters: Shawn Atleo

First Nations are once again bearing the brunt of spring flooding on the Prairies and aboriginal leaders say Ottawa needs to stop undervaluing the lives and property of people on reserves.

"There is no reason why First Nations shouldn't be afforded the same level of protection," Shawn Atleo, the national chief of the Assembly of First Nations, said Thursday.

Rising waters were threatening dozens of reserves across the Prairies Thursday and had forced hundreds of people from their homes. Atleo said almost 50 aboriginal communities in the region were in jeopardy.

While flood-prone towns in southern Manitoba are protected by permanent dikes and vulnerable properties have been built up or moved to higher ground, Atleo said many First Nation communities continue to scramble and frantically sandbag every year to escape flood waters.

"There has yet to be the proper recognition that the lives of First Nations are just as valuable, just as precious and just as important as any other person in the country."
SHAWN ATLEO, ASSEMBLY OF FIRST NATIONS

Almost 400 people in Manitoba had been evacuated from their homes as of Thursday morning — the majority from Peguis First Nation, just north of Winnipeg.

Steve Ashton, Manitoba's emergency measures minister, said the province knows First Nations are being disproportionately affected by the flood. The issue has been raised with Prime Minister Stephen Harper, he said.

Some $130 million was invested to protect Roseau River First Nation, along the American border, after the "flood of the century" in 1997, he said.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Book. Stop

▶ Former Full House star Candace Cameron Bure.

CONTRIBUTED

Reshaping Winnipeg

Candace Cameron Bure is making Winnipeg the only Canadian stop on her book tour. Find out why on page 3.

1 news

Still looking for your lost luggage? There's a store in Alabama you should check. Scan code for story.

1 Download the free ScanLife app with your smartphone at 2dscan.com

2 Use your smartphone to scan 2D barcodes in Metro

3 The codes will direct your mobile browser to m.metronews.ca

On the web at metronews.ca

Former PM Jean Chrétien climbs back into the political ring to take swings at Stephen Harper. Video at metronews.ca

Rider dies after fall from horse

A young woman who suffered serious injuries in a horse-riding accident near Winnipeg last weekend has died.

The 20-year-old Winnipeg resident was thrown from her mount at an equestrian centre east of the city on Sunday.

The woman was in critical condition when she was transported by air ambulance to a Winnipeg hospital where she died Wednesday.

Her name has not been released.

A helicopter with the Alberta-based Shock and Trauma Air Rescue Service, or STARS, was used to transport the accident victim.

The helicopter arrived in Manitoba on April 1 and is under contract with the province for the duration of the spring flood.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

White pages to order only

If Winnipeggers want to get the white pages this year, they'll have to place an order.

Yellow Pages Group announced a policy that has been in place in Toronto, Montreal, Vancouver, Calgary, Edmonton, the Ottawa area and Quebec City will now be in place in Winnipeg.

People will still receive the Yellow Pages, the directory of local businesses.

To receive the white pages call 1-800-268-5637 or visit www.ypg.com/delivery. ELISHA DACEY

MORGAN MODJESKI/METRO

▶ Matt Henderson in front of his class, who are forming his campaign platform.

Class gets in on campaign

- 22 students are part of a campaign pushing for a parliamentary seat
- Teacher says kids learning every day, but campaign is the real deal

MORGAN MODJESKI
WINNIPEG@METRONEWS.CA

Matt Henderson is running for the parliamentary seat in Winnipeg South Centre and his advisers are not the usual group of suits.

Henderson, a teacher at St. John's Ravenscourt school, is being helped by his Grade 9 students, who are working together to put together a winning campaign platform.

"I'm opening up the curriculum to them in an authentic way, in a hands-on way and in a way that makes studying the Canadian political system and studying democracy relevant to them," said Henderson.

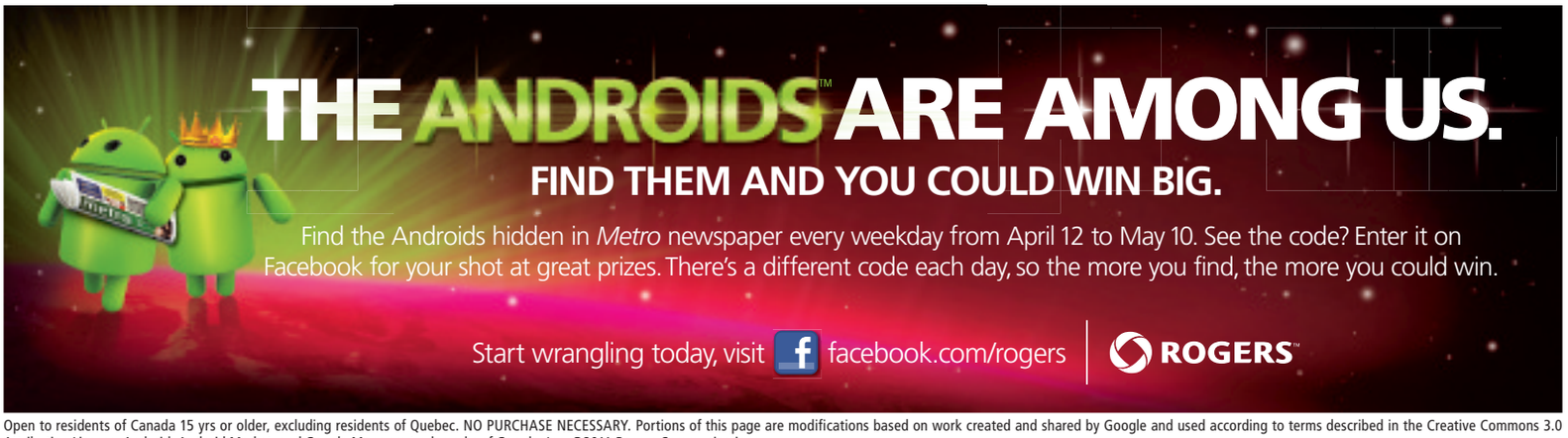
Henderson is running as an independent.

A number of issues are addressed in Henderson's platform including poverty, the environment and the economy, all of which contain student insight.

"We're taking it very seriously, we're a candidate, we don't do it just for fun," said Henderson. "We're trying to put together a coherent campaign, with coherent ideas."

Henderson said his team is able to look at issues in a more objective fashion as his students have yet to establish a political opinion.

"They're able to look at an issue from a perspective without having a jaded experience," said Henderson. "These kids blow me away every day. The biggest challenge is that we have 22 perspectives."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SUSPENDED SENTENCE

Pension pay stealing son must repay government

A Winnipeg man who pocketed more than $80,000 from his dead mother's pension payments has been given a suspended sentence.

Dieter Wrzeciona admitted he took money from the Canadian and U.S. governments that was in a joint account he held with his mother.

Court heard he later lied to authorities about what he was doing, denied his mother's death and claimed she was in a nursing home.

Wrzeciona, 66, has been ordered to pay back just under $29,000 to the Canadian government.

He has already returned $53,000 to the U.S. government.

Chief Justice Diana Cameron said she would leave it up to the government to decide how the money should be repaid.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

One gets cash, the other gets nothing

A man walked into a Roblin Boulevard bank on Wednesday just after 12:30 p.m. and demanded cash from the 28-year-old teller.

The woman handed over cash to the man, who is being described as a 20-something white man about six feet tall with a medium build.

Two hours later, Winnipeg police said another man with a similar description entered a bank on Waterloo Avenue and demanded money from the 64-year-old teller. The man refused, leaving the wannabe thief empty-handed. The thief is also described as a white man, five-foot-10 with a medium build.

Police said two different men are responsible.

ELISHA DACEY

'D.J. Tanner' hopes for full house at tour stop

CONTRIBUTED

▶ Candace Cameron Bure's new book.

- Candace Cameron Bure in town while husband speaks at a conference
- May do more Canadian stops later

ELISHA DACEY
@METRONEWS.CA

She may be best-known for her role as D.J. Tanner on the perpetually sunny sitcom Full House, but Candace Cameron Bure is hoping to bring a little enlightenment to the world in another way.

Cameron Bure is making Winnipeg her only Canadian stop to push her new book, Reshaping It All, about finding a better way to deal with emotional eating.

"It's a motivational tool," said Cameron Bure, adding her book is meant as a healthy eating companion, not a new diet.

"It's like a personal trainer or motivational speaker keeping you on the path, helping you find your way."

The book takes examples from the Bible to help people deal with emotional eating, but Cameron Bure said people of all faiths have told her it has helped them.

"Whether you've read the Bible or not or believe in the Bible as your spiritual guide or not, the lessons in the book are very simple and apply to everyone."

Cameron Bure will be at the St. Vital Chapters store on April 20 at 7 p.m.

For more news: metronews.ca/winnipeg

News in brief

Pedestrian struck down

MAN ARRESTED. A young woman is dead after being struck by a car on Henderson Highway Wednesday afternoon.

Winnipeg police said the 22-year-old woman died in hospital after being hit by a 2001 Pontiac Grand Prix with an 18-year-old man at the wheel. The man has been arrested and faces charges of dangerous driving and criminal negligence causing death.

ELISHA DACEY

Body found in Osborne shed

ONGOING INVESTIGATION. Police said there is no indication of foul play after a body was found in a shed on Osborne Street Wednesday.

Police believe the man, who has not been identified, may be a long-term missing person. Police continue to investigate.

ELISHA DACEY

Twitter goes gojetsgo crazy

RUMOURS. Less than 24 hours after the NHL quashed rumours that the Phoenix Coyotes were set to return to Winnipeg after the playoffs, the Winnipeg Twitterverse exploded again.

On Wednesday, Sportsnet ran a story, citing unnamed sources, that the NHL was quietly inking a deal to see the embattled franchise return to Whiteout Winnipeg. Within the hour, #gojetsgo was trending in Winnipeg.

NHL commissioner Garry Bettman quickly quashed the rumours, saying the report was inaccurate, however, Sportsnet ran the same story Thursday morning citing "numerous" unnamed sources. The response was immediate, with several tweeters wondering what to believe.

ELISHA DACEY

New car-share program a 'complement to transit'

People in Winnipeg might be driving less as the city will soon have a car-sharing program of its own.

The Peg City Car Co-op (PCCC) is a new business that hopes to fill the green gap for those who live a green lifestyle, but still need a car for occasional tasks.

"Car sharing is a complement to transit, walking and cycling," said Beth McKechnie, manager of the PCCC.

"This fills that gap and allows people to have more options in terms of how they get around."

BETH MCKECHNIE, MANAGER OF PEG CITY CAR CO-OP

"If you want to get around sustainably or in a green way, you're going to be using the bus most of the time ... but occasionally you will need a vehicle."

McKechnie explained once a person purchases a car, they're more inclined to use it as the vehicle is constantly costing them money; the PCCC is trying to present an alternative.

"This fills that gap and allows people to have more options in terms of how they get around," she said.

McKechnie said the group already has more than 25 members and they're expecting to grow.

They intend to purchase vehicles and start up in the near future.

The cars will be parked in the Osborne Village area.

MORGAN MODJESKI

CONTRIBUTED

▶ Beth McKechnie stands in front of a smaller vehicle, much like those the car-sharing program will use.

Party leaders get set for an 18-day sprint

24 Sussex Drive is the winning post But will Canadian voters shake off their election blahs?

Election 2011

Now comes the hard part.

After the TV debates, all four party leaders hit the election trail Thursday to begin the 18-day sprint to the May 2 election.

The two debates could signal the start of serious public engagement in an election campaign that appears not to have galvanized the electorate.

And backdrops are something every polished campaigner tries to ensure will properly project their campaign message.

Liberal Leader Michael Ignatieff was at a hardware store in Gatineau, Que., making a pitch for his party's permanent home energy retrofit program.

NDP Leader Jack Layton, flanked by his lone MP from Quebec Thomas Mulcair, used his big orange campaign tour bus as a backdrop to stress his party's hopes of making inroads in Canada's second-biggest province.

And Prime Minister Stephen Harper, framed by a dozen Quebec Conservative candidates who applauded his every utterance, pounded on the theme of a majority government that could provide stability while rewarding the "regions" that see fit to elect Tories.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Ethnic angst

- Liberal Leader Michael Ignatieff picked up Thursday where he left off during the televised leaders' debates, lambasting Prime Minister Stephen Harper over an email a Tory campaign worker sent out seeking people in "ethnic costume" to serve as a backdrop at an event with the PM.
- "The opportunity is to have up to 20 people in national folklore costumes, which represent their ethnic backgrounds," the email read.
- It added: "These people will sit in front row behind the PM — great TV photo-op."

FRANK GUNN/THE CANADIAN PRESS

▶ Stephen Harper and his wife, Laureen, tune skis Thursday at Mont Sainte Anne in Quebec.

Quebecer becomes social media darling

Deciding which party leader won the French language debates is a job for the political pundits. But there's no denying who stole the social media show.

And it wasn't a politician.

It was Quebec's Mugette Paille, one of the Canadians chosen to ask the leaders a pre-recorded question during Wednesday night's debate.

The 53-year-old, from Sainte-Angèle-de-Prémont, Que., shot to the top of trend charts on Twitter after she asked the four leaders what their parties were doing to help her find a job.

As the leaders fought it out, Paille's predicament came up again and again.

Within minutes, a Facebook page had been set up in her name, clips of her question were on YouTube and her last name was featured in more tweets than issues like jobs or taxes.

She is now being compared to Joe the Plumber, an American who shot to stardom during the 2008 U.S. elections when he asked Democrat Barack Obama about small business taxes.

The Republicans turned him into a metaphor for middle-class America.

Paille demurred when in a post-debate interview it was suggested she was a star.

"No, you're exaggerating," she said.

Meanwhile, both debates struck some online users as quite similar.

"So far, the French debate is very similar to the English debate in that all the people asking the questions are white," was one tweet widely circulated.

Others wondered why there weren't questions from francophones outside Quebec.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Quite a crowd

The French debate drew about one-third as much social media attention as the previous night's English event.

- An analysis by The Canadian Press found that about 13,000 debate-related tweets had been sent by the time the French event was over.
- That was a far cry from the English totals, which exceeded 35,000 tweets.
- "It was a very different debate," said digital public affairs strategist Mark Blevis, who conducted the analysis. "It didn't have the same kind of traction."
- Blevis uses a program called Sysomos to scan Twitter and other sites.
- The most common debate-related keyword was Quebec, which appeared more than 1,100 times.

Filmmaker weighs in

Filmmaker Michael Moore provided analysis of the election debates on Twitter.

Two quips from @MMFlint:

• "One of the great things when u live on the Canadian border is watching their political process. It's like tuning in 2 Mars (but a smart Mars)."

• "Here's hoping the Canadians can lose their Bush-lite PM ..."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

GRAHAM HUGHES/THE CANADIAN PRESS

▶ Jean Chrétien

Chrétien: Who needs a majority?

Jean Chrétien took aim Thursday at Prime Minister Stephen Harper's plea for a majority government.

"You know, most of the countries in the world don't have majority governments," Chrétien, who himself won three consecutive majorities, said in Montreal.

"Only in Canada, when I was there, we had three. In all humility."

Chrétien said the Liberals' election campaign has been better than most Canadians thought.

"Not bad, better than expected," he said. "But we knew that the day of the election (call)."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Some voters get plethora of political options

Number, variety of parties varies in every riding across Canada Some have Communist party candidates

For the first time since 1979, federal voters won't have a chance to vote for John C. Turmel, the "losingest" candidate ever.

Over the last three decades the self-described banking systems engineer has run in 73 elections — federal, provincial and municipal — and lost 72. The other was a federal byelection that was pre-empted by a federal election.

Turmel, 60, says he's been trying to enlist candidates across the country to be part of his Turmel team.

If they win enough seats, he says, "then we can have a byelection to get me in if necessary."

Meanwhile, voters in Hamilton, Ont., and in part of Vancouver will have a bountiful basket of names on the ballot to choose from when they head to the polls May 2.

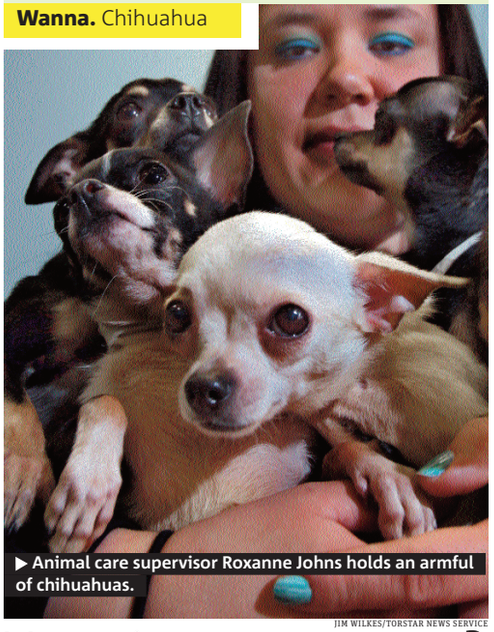
There are nine candidates running in both Hamilton East-Stoney Creek and West Vancouver-Sunshine Coast-Sea to Sky country.

In contrast, ballots in Acadie-Bathurst in New Brunswick and the Toronto riding of Willowdale have only three names. There are no Green candidates in either riding. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Choices choices

- **In Hamilton, Ont., voters can choose from the Libertarian, Marxist-Leninist, Communist, Canadian Action and Progressive Canadian parties, as well as the usual Liberal, Conservative, NDP and Green parties.**

Wanna. Chihuahua



▶ Animal care supervisor Roxanne Johns holds an armful of chihuahuas.

JIM WILKES/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Yo quiero rescue me?

Thirty-three chihuahuas were rescued from a squalid home in Oakville earlier this month by the Oakville and Milton Humane Society. Since then, the society has been overwhelmed by more than 200 applications to adopt the little dogs.

Will price be right for T.O. zoo?

Bob Barker, the former Price Is Right host and animal activist, is heading to Toronto on Friday to convince zoo management to send elephants Toka, Thika and Iringa to new homes in the U.S.

Barker says he will likely contribute some of his own money to help move three Toronto elephants to a warmer climate.

The zoo has spent the last three years studying whether to close or upgrade the elephant exhibit and plans a vote on May 12.

Last month, Barker offered Edmonton $100,000 to make sure the city's lone elephant, Lucy, gets a checkup with experts chosen by Zoocheck Canada.

The city has turned down the offer, saying it has its own experts.

Barker and activists want the elephants moved to a sanctuary THE CANADIAN PRESS

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RIM's PlayBook not quite ready for prime time: Critics

JUSTIN SULLIVAN/GETTY IMAGES

The advance reviews of Research In Motion's PlayBook are in, and they're generally not good.

The New York Times' prominent tech writer David Pogue calls the tablet "half-baked" and says "it seems almost silly to try to assess it, let alone buy it."

Pogue is one of several U.S. reviewers given early access to the device, which RIM hopes can compete with Apple's iPad 2.

But while reviews had good things to say about the PlayBook's hardware, its Flash-able web browser and slick interface, some lamented that the first version being released is Wi-Fi only and cannot connect to mobile networks.

A handful of critical apps, including those for email and BlackBerry Messenger, appear on the PlayBook only when a wireless link is established with a BlackBerry. When the link is broken, those apps disappear off the tablet.

"RIM has just shipped a BlackBerry product that cannot do email. It must be skating season in hell," Pogue wrote. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Raging loonie feeds price gap

Canadian consumers are paying at least 20 per cent more for some goods than U.S. counterparts

A flyaway loonie has given rise to a massive price discrepancy.

Douglas Porter, deputy chief economist of the Bank of Montreal, notes that in the summer of 2009 the spread was just under seven per cent. With the rebound in the currency, the gap has widened even more.

BMO's survey compared 11 items. For example, a Blu-ray copy of the movie The King's Speech cost $24.99 in Canada, 28 per cent more than it would have cost in the U.S. in Canadian dollars. Titleist's premier ProV1 golf balls were 11 per cent more expensive in Canada at $49.99, versus $45.07 south of the border.

The biggest discrepancy was with running shoes, where the five samples averaged $147.99 in Canada, 48 per cent more than if the shoes were purchased in the U.S.

Market moment

PRICES AS OF 5 P.M. THURSDAY

TSX	Dollar
– 11.84 (13,821.8)	+ 0.28¢ (104.19¢ US)
Oil	**Natural gas 1,000 cu ft** $4.078 US (– 6.3¢ US)
+ $1 US ($108.11 US)	**Gold contracts** $1,472.40 US (+ $16.80 US)

It is hard to pinpoint just one reason for the gap. The U.S. retail sector is more competitive than Canada's and subject to far more discounting by retailers. The American economy is also in tougher shape than Canada's, making it more difficult to sustain higher prices. And Canadian importers negotiate wholesale prices with U.S. suppliers early in the year, so swings in currency values may not reflect that until later.

Bruce Cran of the Consumers' Association of Canada says Canadians "are being gouged as consumers." He says his group's surveys show the situation is worse than BMO makes out, with the price difference closer to 30 per cent. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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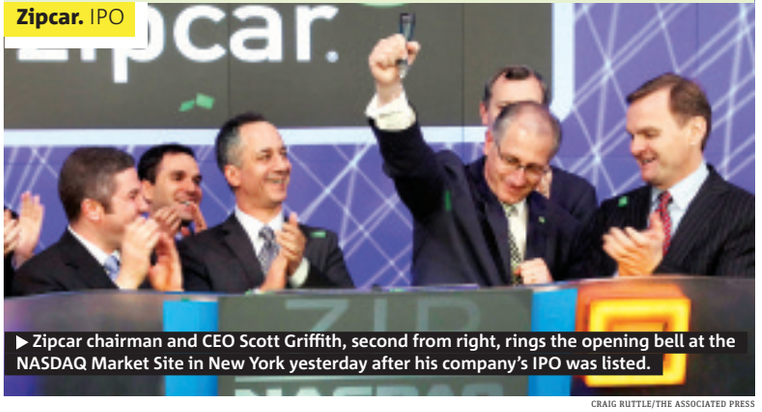
Zipcar. IPO



▶ Zipcar chairman and CEO Scott Griffith, second from right, rings the opening bell at the NASDAQ Market Site in New York yesterday after his company's IPO was listed.

CRAIG RUTTLE/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Just zipping right along

Shares of Zipcar Inc. soared after the company's initial public offering yesterday performed better than predicted. Zipcar went for $18 US a share, well above the $14 to $16 projection. At $18 a share, Zipcar's IPO is worth nearly $175 million US, about 40 per cent more than original predictions.

28 The Quinn family's 28 per cent stake in Anglo Irish Bank is worthless today after its nationalization in 2009. Quinn owes Anglo more than $4 billion US.

Quinn mighty no more

Sean Quinn, one of Ireland's wealthiest men, is the latest casualty of the nation's banking disaster. Anglo Irish Bank has won government approval to strip Quinn of any role in managing the Quinn Group's 13 divisions.

Quinn's empire was destroyed when he gambled billions on the success of Anglo, right before Ireland's property boom went bust. On Thursday, Quinn surrendered ownership because he can't pay the loans. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

The Metro List

NEIL MORTON

FRIGHTENED FOR CHARLIE

1 Wedding of the Century. Up to two billion people are expected to tune in for Will & Kate's Big Day on April 29, making this the most watched TV event in history — not to mention one of the biggest social media days. So if you're not into the royal wedding, you might want to find a cabin deep in the woods and be a luddite for a day.

2 Charlie Sheen Tour. His roller-coaster jeers/cheers Violent Torpedo Of Truth tour hit Toronto last night and tonight. The big question remains: Are Charlie's showgoers and his 3.5 million-plus followers on Twitter (@CHARLIESHEEN) merely enablers to his mental issues and addictions he is battling. Dr. Drew, who has said, "I'm frightened for the guy," might agree.

3 Hockey Fever. Political parties moved the date of the French language debate to Wednesday from Thursday to avoid conflicting with a Montreal Canadiens' playoff game against their arch-rival Boston Bruins. This may be an (other) important election, but you don't want to compete with hockey-mad viewers.

4 Bronx Zoo. Its World of Reptiles exhibit will now be quite the tourist attraction after its Egyptian cobra escaped and someone created a hilarious @bronxzooscobra Twitter account (with 241,000 followers and counting), tweeting its time on the run, er, slither. The snake was found and the zoo held a "submit a name" promotion for the world famous cobra. The winner after 60,000 votes were cast? Mia.

5 Piers Morgan. Larry who? Some questioned the choice to replace the iconic Larry King with Piers Morgan, who was best known as being a judge on America's Got Talent. But Morgan now hosts the most watched news program on CNN — Piers Morgan Tonight — and has become must-watch TV for his hard-ball-with-a-cheeky-grin questions.

6 John Deere, Meet Wal-Mart. A passerby happened to catch a driverless John Deere tractor's destructive run around a Wal-Mart parking lot in Richmond Hill, Ont. And he began filming. As someone says during the video taping, "Put 'em on YouTube!!" Well, the filmer did just that and "Tractor demolition derby at Wal-Mart superstore parking lot in Richmond Hill" has gone viral, with nearly 400,000 views.

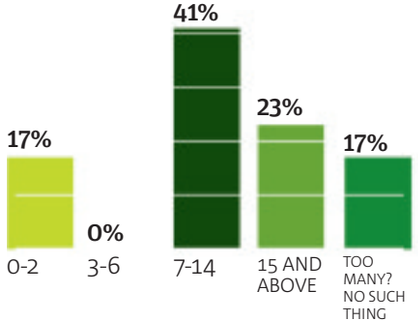
7 @mondoville on Twitter. It's like Canada's version of Gawker.com or Anderson Cooper's "Keeping Them Honest" segments, but in tweets. This "handmade social media news stream" has no sacred cows, and is not afraid to challenge the Canadian media/entertainment/biz/tech industry, or ask for more transparency. Refreshing.

Follow Neil Morton on Twitter (@neilmorton).

metro life panel

Register at metrolifepanel.ca and take the quick poll

How many sex partners is too many?



Local tweets

- **@mwmiller 20:** Winnipeg Jets, new arena, Phoenix is a disaster and so Teemu can retire with franchise he started with.
- **@dunkirkw1991:** The Winnipeg weather was pretty deceiving yesterday sunny and bright out but cold and chilly.
- **@friggangoddess:** Good morning #Winnipeg!!! You're an awesome city that I'm happy to call home <3
- **@TabernacNation:** Here they come! The Winnipeg Coyotes! I can hear the howls from the ten Phoenix hockey fans.
- **@brandparnell:** I am sitting at Starbucks. The Real House Wives of Winnipeg are all around me. Holt Renfrew this and nails that.
- **@anomalei:** Just registered with 311 #Winnipeg to sandbag from 330 to 630! Who's with me?! #Flood2011 #Manitoba
- **@EricAbromeit:** Texting while walking, speeding hotdogs, people just don't get it. Happens constantly in #Winnipeg, & then another fatality at a crosswalk.

Worth mentioning

MOSCOW. Russia has banned the hunting of polar bears this year, thanks to a group with close ties to Prime Minister Vladimir Putin, a longtime defender of large endangered animals.

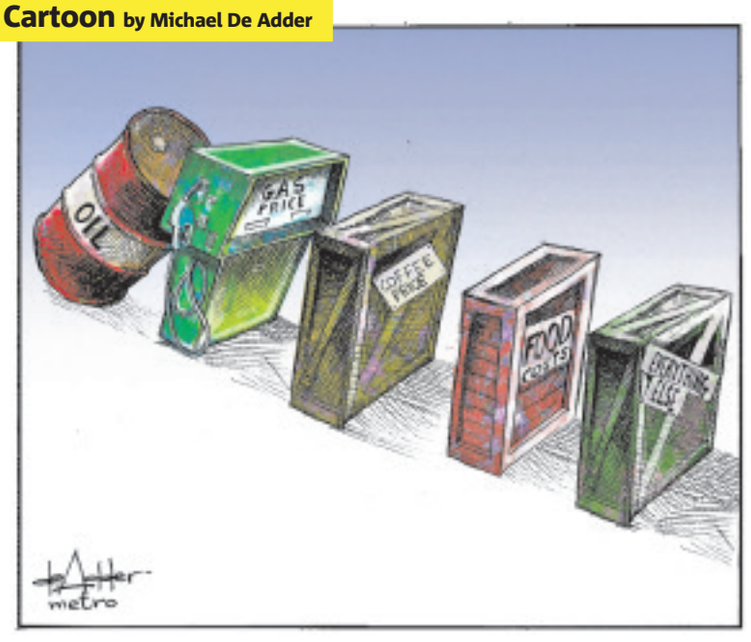
A Russian-U.S. commission last year agreed to restrict polar bear hunting to 29 animals per year for each country. But The Polar Bear program, established under Putin's patronage, said this week that Russia had waived its quota for bear hunting.

The Polar Bear program, which said U.S. officials had long been reluctant to introduce the cap on hunting, said approximately 100 polar bears a year have been killed in Alaska in recent years.

"Measures taken by Russia will ensure that the United States will be killing at least 70 polar bears fewer than before, which, according to Russian specialists, will help to sustain and boost the population of this beautiful Arctic animal," the group said in a statement posted on Putin's official website.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Cartoon by Michael De Adder



WEIRD NEWS

As long as it's not that Friday song

It's a whale of a tune — literally. Male humpback whales off the coast of eastern Australia develop a catchy tune each year that they sing to impress lady humpbacks, AFP News reports.

Researchers say the tune spreads to other male whales across the South Pacific Ocean and different groups of whales then sing it throughout the mating season, according to a study released Thursday by the University of Queensland.

All the catchy whale songs over the past decade originated off the eastern coast of Australia and spread as far as the French Polynesia.

Scientists are puzzled as to why the whales all sing the same song, since it appears they do it to attract a mate. And they're not all that original. While the occasional new song has surfaced, the whales usually seem to mix tunes from previous seasons to create a new sound.

The 11-year project is described as the first documented study of "repeated, dynamic cultural change occurring across multiple populations at such a large geographic scale." METRO

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▶ The animated Rio follows a domesticated macaw who travels from Minnesota to Rio de Janeiro.

Reel Guys

RICHARD CROUSE & MARK BRESLIN
SCENE@METRONEWS.CA

Colourful, musical Rio

Richard Crouse and Mark Breslin debate the merits of Rio Musical numbers, strong supporting cast lift a weak story not quite to Pixar levels

Richard Crouse: Mark, I have to get the 800 pound elephant — or in this case, the big blue bird — out of the way right away. Let me say that Rio has an OK story and fine animation but it really lacks the depth of a Pixar film. Maybe I'm spoiled, but when I watch animated movies, whether they are Dreamworks, or, like this one, from Fox, I can't help but think, What would the wizards at Pixar have done with this story?

Mark Breslin: Richard, I agree. Pixar is the gold standard of animated films, but sometimes, you just have to go for the bronze. Or as Stephen Stills once sang, "If you can't be with the one you love, love the one you're with." I found there were a lot of things to enjoy about the movie, even if it wasn't Pixar perfect. Let's start with the look and setting: ravishing colour palette and exotic location: Rio.

RC: Don't get me wrong, Rio is perfectly serviceable. It's colourful and filled with nice little touches like a little bird who warms himself against a traffic light, flitting back-and-forth between the red and green lights, in snowy Minnesota. But even with all the good stuff it isn't particularly memorable. It'll keep the little ones occupied in the theatre — although very little kids may find some of the action a bit too intense — and has some good messages but there's no real sticky content here.

MB: Yes, the story is weak, and 15 minutes too long. But I found the movie came alive during the three musical numbers, and if there only had been more, a full-blown musical, the movie might have been a near classic. But there were nice moments of visual wit, and I appreciated Jesse Eisenberg's attempts at Woody Allen line readings. Nigel, the avian villain, is good, as is Tracy Morgan's drooly bulldog. Could have used more of him.

RC: I agree. The movie is just off by 20 per cent. I wasn't much taken with the voice work from the leads but will.i.am, Jamie Foxx, Morgan and particularly Jemaine Clement are great. When their characters are on screen the movie comes alive. When they're not, it doesn't really take flight.

MB: And although it is a sanitized version of Rio de Janeiro presented in the film, I was pleased to see some references to street urchins, favelas, pickpockets and bad Brazilian steakhouses as part of the movie.

Plot synopsis

- In Rio, nerd actor du jour Jesse Eisenberg plays, (what else?) a nerdy birdy named Blu — a domesticated macaw — from small-town Minnesota. He's never learned to fly, but enjoys a happy and healthy life with his owner and BFF Linda (Leslie Mann). When they discover the last remaining female blue macaw in the world lives in Rio de Janeiro (voice of Anne Hathaway) they make the journey to find her. But their trip doesn't go as planned.
- **Ratings:**
  Richard: ⊕⊕⊕
  Mark: ⊕⊕⊕

2 scene

Scene in brief

Russell Brand says he was on his best behaviour when he started working with Dame Helen Mirren - until she told him off for it.

The extroverted British comedian plays a drunken playboy in the remake of the 1980s comedy Arthur, alongside Mirren as his straight-laced and long-suffering nanny.

Brand told a news conference in Sydney on Thursday that "she's like, you know, a dame and a lady and so I was naturally quite respectful."

"I kind of was shy when I met her. I think she just did that to you know, break the ice: 'Don't respect me,' she said."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

James Bond remains the spy who loved Sony in deal with MGM for 007 financing, distribution

Movie reviews See it twice | See it now | Worth watching | Yawn | Don't bother

Scream 4 not able to live up to original

Scream 4
Genre: Horror
Director: Wes Craven
Stars: Neve Campbell, Courteney Cox, David Arquette

Scream was a necessary adrenaline shot in the heart for the horror genre, revitalizing the slasher movie by poking fun at its predictable conventions and clichés. The sequels offered diminishing returns with a third entry so terrible that it killed off the series. Now a decade later along comes Scream 4, reuniting the surviving cast members of the first series for a collection of new killings in the town of Woodsboro. A fantastic opening sequence sets the tone, but things fall apart from there.

The goal of this movie was to comment on the recent slew of horror franchise reboots and remakes that soiled screens over the past few years. Unfortunately, those movies have no conventions or clichés to pick apart, so aside from noting that "remakes suck," the filmmakers don't have much to do. Ironically the movie ends up being dragged down by the conventions of its own franchise and what was once thrillingly original now feels repetitively dull. Director Wes Craven is still a master genre craftsman, so there are memorable scares and some clever commentary on contemporary celebrity culture, but overall, Scream 4 is just another needless entry in a franchise long past its prime.

PHIL BROWN

Mulroney: The Opera
Genre: Musical comedy
Director: Larry Weinstein
Stars: Rick Miller, Dan Redican, Stephanie Anne Mills

This is no gentle satire on our former PM Brian Mulroney. It actually says the words, names the names and gleefully re-opens wounds of a scandal blackened political career that was neither kind nor gentle. Mulroney's journey begins in sunny, idyllic Baie Comeau, where a wealthy American land owner sets wee Brian's sights south, and ends on the trash heap of broken dreams. And this IS opera, performed by actors lip-synching to opera stars; expect ear shredding highs, rumbling lows and shock-induced laughs. It's zany, colourful, and takes no prisoners.

ANNE BRODIE

Win Win
Genre: Comedy
Director: Thomas McCarthy
Stars: Paul Giamatti, Amy Ryan, Jeffrey Tambor

Thomas McCarthy follows up The Station Agent and The Visitor with another low-key character piece about displaced outsiders forming makeshift families. This time his focus is on Paul Giamatti's struggling small town lawyer and wrestling coach who manipulates a judge to make extra cash off of an elderly client and then finds himself caring for the man's troubled and talented wrester grandson. As usual, what sounds like a sentimental soapy set up feels painfully real and hilarious in McCarthy's hands. While the film might not be quite as awards-baiting his previous work, this is easily McCarthy's funniest outing and further establishes him as one of the finest humanist filmmakers working today.

PHIL BROWN

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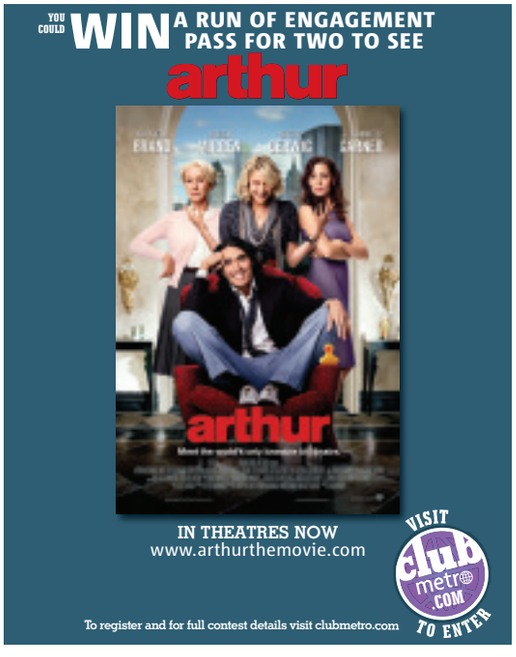
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Reese picks elephant over the vampire

NED EHRBAR
SCENE@METRONEWS.CA
METRO WORLD NEWS IN HOLLYWOOD

Let's be honest, when Reese Witherspoon sits down to discuss her new film, Water for Elephants — an adaptation of the best-selling book about a young veterinary student (Twilight star Robert Pattinson) who joins a traveling circus and finds himself in a love triangle with the star performer (Witherspoon) and sadistic ringmaster (Christoph Waltz) — what inquiring minds really want to know is what it's like to kiss R. Patz?

"Rob possibly had the most hideous, horrible cold of any co-star I've ever had to do a love scene with ever in my entire (life)," Witherspoon admits with faux repulsion. "I'm talking green, infectious, disgusting! He was literally snorting and snotting through every second of it and it was not appealing. I was just trying not to get sick the whole time," she laughs.

While her rendezvous with Pattinson was less than ideal, Witherspoon forged another very deep connection on set with Tai, the film's titular pachyderm. Growing up in Tennessee, the 35-year-old Oscar-winner was used to riding horses but admits nothing prepared her to "ride (an elephant) bareback, in a leotard, holding on with one hand."

"I worked with Tai closely and intensely for a while, developing the routine and practicing," she explains. "It was a very emotional experience for me. One of my favourite stories, which speaks to the intelligence of (Tai) … was when we were shooting a night shoot really late one night. The next day she was so tired and I asked the trainers, 'Why is she so tired?' And they said, 'Well, she stayed up all night telling all the other elephants what she had been up to.' She lives with six other elephants, who talk to each other by roaring. … The trainers said the elephants roared for nearly an hour before they went to bed."

Perhaps one of the things Tai was trumpeting about was how glorious Witherspoon looks in the film, channeling Jean Harlow in tight platinum curls and luxurious satin dresses, that slither over her body. Witherspoon says she watched hours of old films to research her role, changing the way she walked, spoke and stood.

"I had this whole dream of doing an incredible '30s accent," the actress giggles, "and then after the first day (director Francis Lawrence) said, 'I don't think you should do that anymore. It's really hard to understand what you're saying.'"

▶ Reese Witherspoon and Robert Pattinson star in Water for Elephants, which opens in theatres next Friday.

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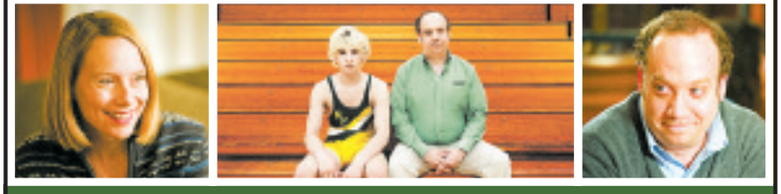
A. O. SCOTT, The New York Times
"A MASTER CLASS IN OFFBEAT COMIC BRILLIANCE."



Paul GIAMATTI Amy RYAN Bobby CANNAVALE Jeffrey TAMBOR

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Cinema City McGillivray
2190 McGillivray Blvd., 204-269-9981

The Adjustment Bureau (PG) Fri-Thu 1:40-4:10-7-9:40
The Chronicles of Narnia: The Voyage of the Dawn Treader (PG) Fri-Thu 12:50-3:40-6:30-9:15
The Fighter (14A) Fri-Thu 1:10-4-6:50-9:20
Gnomeo and Juliet (G) Fri-Thu 12:20-2:35-5-7:40
The Green Hornet (PG) Fri-Thu 7:45-10:20 Fri-Thu 10
Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows: Part 1 (PG) Fri-Thu 1:15-4:40-8
Just Go With It (PG) Fri-Thu 12:40-3:20-7:20-9:50
The King's Speech (PG) Fri-Thu 12:45-3:50-7:15-10:10
No Strings Attached (14A) Fri-Thu 12:30-3:10-7:10-9:45
Tangled (G) Fri-Thu 1-3:30-6:40-9:30
True Grit (14A) Fri-Thu 1:30-4:20-7:30-10:15
Unknown (14A) Fri-Thu 1:50-4:50-7:50-10:25
Yogi Bear (G) Fri-Thu 1:20-3:45

Cinema City Northgate
1399 McPhillips Street, 204-334-6234

The Adjustment Bureau (PG) Fri 7-9:50 Sat-Sun 1:50-4:30-7-9:50 Mon-Thu 5:15-7:50
Gnomeo and Juliet (G) Fri 7:20-9:20 Sat-Sun 12:50-3-5:10-7:20-9:20 Mon-Thu 5:25-7:30
The Green Hornet (PG) Fri 7:10-10 Sat-Sun 1:40-4:20-7:10-10 Mon-Thu 5:05-8
Just Go With It (PG) Fri 6:50-9:40 Sat-Sun 1:30-4:10-6:50-9:40 Mon-Thu 4:55-7:40
The King's Speech (PG) Fri 6:40-9:30 Sat-Sun 1:10-4-6:40-9:30 Mon-Thu 5-7:45
Thank You (PG) Fri 8 Sat-Sun 1:20-4:40-8 Mon-Thu 4:50-7:55
True Grit (14A) Fri 6:30-9:10 Sat-Sun 1-3:50-6:30-9:10 Mon-Thu 5:20-8:20
Unknown (14A) Fri 7:30-10:10 Sat-Sun 2-4:50-7:30-10:10 Mon-Thu 5:10-8:10

Cinematheque
304-100 Arthur, 204-925-3457

Curling (STC) Fri 7
Honouring Larry Desrochers (STC) Sat 7:30
No Films Showing Today (STC) Mon-Tue
Soundtracker (STC) Fri 9:15 Sun 7:30 Wed-Thu 7

City Cinema - Northgate
1399 McPhillips, 204-334-6234

The Adjustment Bureau (PG) Fri 7-9:50 Sat-Sun 1:50-4:30-7-9:50 Mon-Thu 5:15-7:50
Gnomeo and Juliet (G) Fri 7:20-9:20 Sat-Sun 12:50-3-5:10-7:20-9:20 Mon-Thu 5:25-7:30
The Green Hornet (PG) Fri 7:10-10 Sat-Sun 1:40-4:20-7:10-10 Mon-Thu 5:05-8
Just Go With It (PG) Fri 6:50-9:40 Sat-Sun 1:30-4:10-6:50-9:40 Mon-Thu 4:55-7:40
The King's Speech (PG) Fri 6:40-9:30 Sat-Sun 1:10-4-6:40-9:30 Mon-Thu 5-7:45
Thank You (PG) Fri 8 Sat-Sun 1:20-4:40-8 Mon-Thu 4:50-7:55
True Grit (14A) Fri 6:30-9:10 Sat-Sun 1-3:50-6:30-9:10 Mon-Thu 5:20-8:20
Unknown (14A) Fri 7:30-10:10 Sat-Sun 2-4:50-7:30-10:10 Mon-Thu 5:10-8:10

Famous Players Kildonan Place
1555 Regent Ave W, 204-663-2166

Arthur (PG) No Passes Fri 6:45-9:20 No Passes Sat-Sun 1:20-3:55-6:45-9:20 No Passes Mon-Thu 5:40-8:15
Beastly (PG) Fri 7:10-9:30 Sat-Sun 2:10-4:35-7:10-9:30 Mon-Thu 5:35-7:45
Diary of a Wimpy Kid: Rodrick Rules (G) Fri 6:50-9:10 Sat-Sun 1:50-4:15-6:50-9:10 Mon-Thu 5:30-7:55
Hop (G) Fri 6:35-9 Sat-Sun 1:40-4:05-6:35-9 Mon-Thu 6-8:20
Rio (G) No Passes Fri 7:20-9:40 No Passes Sat-Sun 2-4:40-7:20-9:40 No Passes Mon-Thu 5:50-8:30
Scream 4 (14A) Fri 7-9:45 Sat-Sun 1:30-4:20-7-9:45 Mon-Thu 5:30-8:10

Grant Park 8 Cinemas
1120 Grant Ave., 204-453-4084

Arthur (PG) Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating, No Passes Fri 3:45-7:15-10:05 Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating, No Passes Sat-Sun 12:45-3:45-7:15-10:05 Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Mon-Thu 3:45-7:15-10:05
Hanna (14A) Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Fri 3:50-7:10 Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Sat-Sun 12:50-3:50-7:10 Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Mon-Thu 3:50-7:10
Hop (G) Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Fri 3:40-6:50-9:20 Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Sat-Sun 1-3:40-6:50-9:20 Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Mon-Thu 3:40-6:50-9:20
Jane Eyre (PG) Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Fri 3:30-6:30-9:30 Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Sat-Sun 12:30-3:30-6:30-9:30 Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Mon-Thu 3:30-6:30-9:30
The Lincoln Lawyer (14A) Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Fri 3:20-6:45-9:40 Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Sat-Sun 12:25-3:20-6:45-9:40 Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Mon-Thu 3:20-6:45-9:40
Rio 3D (G) Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Fri 4-6:40-9:10 Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Sat-Sun 12:40-4-6:40-9:10 Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Mon-Thu 4-6:40-9:10
Scream 4 (14A) Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Fri 4:10-7:10-9:50 Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Sat-Sun 1:10-4:10-7:10-9:50 Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Mon-Thu 4:10-7:10-9:50
Your Highness (18A) Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Fri 4:15-7:20-10:10 Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Sat-Sun 1:15-4:15-7:20-10:10 Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Mon-Thu 4:15-7:20-10:10

▶ Saoirse Ronan stars as the title character in Joe Wright's adventure thriller Hanna.

IMAX Theatre at Portage Place
Y003-393 Portage Avenue, 204-956-4629

Alaska: Spirit of the Wild (STC) Fri 12
Amazon (STC) Sun 6
Bears (STC) Mon 11 Wed 12:15
Born to Be Wild 3D (G) Fri 11-1:15-5:30-7 Sat-Sun 12:30-4-5:30-7:30 Mon 12:15-1:45-7-9:30 Tue 11-1:30-7-9:30 Wed 10-1:30-7-9:30 Thu 11:10-1:15-7-9:30
Coral Reef Adventure (STC) Sat 6 Thu 12:10-8:15
Egypt 3D: Secrets of the Mummies (STC) Wed 11:10-8:15
Hubble 3D (G) Tue 12:15-6:15
I Am Number Four The IMAX Experience (PG) Fri 8:15 Sat-Sun 1:45-8:45
Jane Goodall's Wild Chimpanzees (STC) Thu 10
Wild Ocean 3D (G) Mon 10-8:15

Landmark Globe Cinema
393 Portage Ave, 204-943-1583

Barney's Version (14A) Fri 7:30 Sat-Sun 1:30-7:30 Mon-Thu 7:30
Hanna (14A) Fri 7-9:20 Sat-Sun 1-3:20-7-9:20 Mon-Thu 7-9:20
Win Win (14A) Fri 7:15-9:30 Sat-Sun 1:15-3:30-7:15-9:30 Mon-Thu 7:15-9:30

Landmark Towne Cinema
301 Notre Dame Avenue, 204-947-2848

Arthur (PG) Fri 6:45-9:15 Sat-Sun 1-3:45-6:45-9:15 Mon-Thu 6:45-9:15
Hop (G) Fri 7:15-9:30 Sat-Sun 1-3:30-7:15-9:30 Mon-Thu 7:15-9:30
Insidious (PG) Fri 7-9:15 Sat-Sun 1:30-4-7-9:15 Mon-Thu 7-9:15
Paul (14A) Fri 6:45-9:15 Sat-Sun 1:15-3:45-6:45-9:15 Mon-Thu 6:45-9:15
Rio (G) Fri 7-9:15 Sat-Sun 1:30-3:45-7-9:15 Mon-Thu 7-9:15
Scream 4 (14A) Fri 6:45-9:30 Sat-Sun 1:15-4-6:45-9:30 Mon-Thu 6:45-9:30
Source Code (PG) Fri 7:15-9:30 Sat-Sun 1-3:30-7:15-9:30 Mon-Thu 7:15-9:30
Your Highness (18A) Fri 7-9:30 Sat-Sun 1:30-4-7-9:30 Mon-Thu 7-9:30

SilverCity Polo Park
815 St. James Street, 204-774-1001

Arthur (PG) No Passes Fri-Thu 12:45-3:20-6:50-9:45
Battle: Los Angeles (14A) Fri-Thu 10:30
Hanna (14A) Fri-Tue 1:40-4:15-7:50-10:20 Wed 4:15-7:50-10:20 Thu 1:40-4:15-7:50-10:20 Star & Strollers Screening Wed 1
Hop (G) Fri-Tue 12:10-2:25-4:50-7:10-9:30 Wed 4:50-7:10-9:30 Thu 12:10-2:25-4:50-7:10-9:30 Star & Strollers Screening Wed 1
Insidious (PG) Fri 1:15-3:50-7:40-10:15 Sat 1:20-3:50-7:40-10:15 Sun-Thu 1:15-3:50-7:40-10:15
Limitless (14A) Fri 12:50-3:30-6:45-9:40 Sat 3:30-6:45-9:40 Sun-Thu 12:50-3:30-6:45-9:40
Mortal Kombat: Game Launch and Tournament (STC) Mon 8
Mulroney: The Opera (PG) Sat 1
One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest (STC) Sun 1
Paul (14A) Fri-Thu 12:20-3-6:30-9:15
Rio (G) No Passes Fri-Thu 1-3:40-7 No Passes Fri-Thu 12-2:30-5-7:30-10:10
Scream 4 (14A) Fri-Thu 12:30-3:15-7:15-10 Fri-Sat 1:30-4:10-7:45-10:45 Sun 4:10-7:45-10:30 Mon 1:30-4:10 Tue-Thu 1:30-4:10-7:45-10:30
Soul Surfer (PG) Fri-Thu 1:20-4-7:20-9:50
Source Code (PG) Fri-Sun 12:40-3:10-6:40-9:20 Mon 12:40-3:10-9:20 Tue-Thu 12:40-3:10-6:40-9:20
Sucker Punch (14A) Fri-Thu 1:10-3:45-6:20-9:10
Your Highness (18A) Fri-Sat 1:45-4:15-8-10:40 Sun-Thu 1:45-4:15-8-10:30

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110-1225 St Mary's Rd, 204-256-3901

Arthur (PG) No Passes Fri-Mon 1:10-4:10-6:50-9:40 No Passes Tue-Thu 4:10-6:50-9:40
Hanna (14A) Fri-Mon 12:30-3:40-6:30-9:20 Tue-Thu 3:40-6:30-9:20
Hop (G) Fri-Mon 12-2:30-5-7:30-10 Tue-Thu 5-7:30-10
Insidious (PG) Fri-Mon 1:30-4:20-7:10-10:20 Tue-Thu 4:20-7:10-10:20
Limitless (14A) Fri-Sun 1:40-4:30-7:40-10:30 Mon-Thu 4:30-7:40-10:30 Star & Strollers Screening Mon 1
Paul (14A) Fri-Thu 9:10
Rio (G) No Passes Fri-Sun 12:50-3:30-6:20 No Passes Mon-Thu 3:30-6:20 No Passes Fri-Mon 11:50-2:20-4:50-7:20-9:50 No Passes Tue-Thu 4:50-7:20-9:50 Star & Strollers Screening, No Passes Mon 1
Scream 4 (14A) Fri-Mon 1-4-7-10:10 Tue-Thu 4-7-10:10
Source Code (PG) Fri-Mon 1:20-3:50-6:40-9:30 Tue-Thu 3:50-6:40-9:30
Your Highness (18A) Fri-Mon 1:50-4:40-7:50-10:40 Tue-Thu 4:40-7:50-10:40

THE DAY THAT JOSH HOMME CAME BACK TO LIFE

Sound Check

ALAN CROSS
SCENE@METRONEWS.CA

Josh Homme (Queens of the Stone Age, Them rooked Vultures, Eagles of Death Metal) isn't exactly a delicate figure. At six-foot-four and somewhere near 250 pounds, few people would be dumb enough to take him on. But even the most robust among us can collide head-on into our own mortality.

"I didn't even speak to my closest friends at that time because stories like this are so awful that you just don't want to tell anybody," he told me. "It's like saying 'This tasted like s**t. Here, taste it.'"

"I had surgery on my leg." Josh points to a spot on his upper left thigh. He continues quietly, still shaken. "During the surgery, they were unable to get the oxygen tube down my throat to resuscitate me. So my blood began to de-oxygenate. So I guess I was choking to death."

Josh goes very quiet. "And they lost me." And when he says "lost," he means "full cardiac arrest." Flat-lined. Technically dead.

"They had to defibrillate me, which added a lot of recovery time because, essentially, you're being electrocuted."

The next day, he shuffled through the hallways of the hospital with an IV pole. When QotSA guitarist Troy Van Leeuwen showed up with a giant bunch of balloons, "it was the most amazing thing I ever saw," he says.

So what about those mythical near-death experiences? Nothing — at least in Josh's experience. "I was out. I didn't see any tunnel or anything because I was under. But it kind of turned me around for a little bit because I'd never really been hurt like that. It makes a lot of stuff seem really trivial."

Initially, he didn't want to play music. "You start asking yourself why do all the people I don't know get all my love and attention and the people I really love… I'm gone so much. It took me a second to get back to where I am now, embracing music again."

JONATHAN WOOD/GETTY IMAGES

▶ Josh Homme

Josh and his wife are expecting a second child in August. That's all that matters now.

Let the Games begin

MATTHEW ROMANADA
SCENE@METRONEWS.CA

SUBMITTED

▶ Kit Harrington plays Jon Snow in the new HBO series Game of Thrones.

For British actor Kit Harrington, being called a bastard was something he had to quickly become accustomed to.

Harrington portrays Jon Snow, the illegitimate son of Ned Stark (Sean Bean) in the epic new HBO Canada series Game of Thrones.

The show is based on a hugely popular series of fantasy novels by George R. R. Martin.

Think Lord of the Rings with less magic and orcs and add in a big helping of political manoeuvring akin to The Tudors.

Harrington spoke to Metro recently while in Toronto filming Silent Hill Revelations 3-D about taking on the role of Snow and playing a bastard.

"It's everything that he is. He is kind, he is loyal to his family, but underneath it all he is the bastard, the illegitimate child," Harrington said. "He's the bastard child of this very famous man who is famous for being a good loyal man."

With little in the way of future prospects, Snow opts to volunteer for lifelong service in the Night's Watch, a group of celibate fighters who man The Wall, the northern border of the Seven Kingdoms.

"I think it's the only place he can go," Harrington said. "He needs to go somewhere to be his own man. At this place he can not just be a bastard, but an equal among men and I can rise to the top."

The Wall, which makes the Great Wall of China look like a cubicle, is just one of several settings the Game of Thrones exposes to viewers.

Despite having such a large cast and many different story arcs, Game of Thrones is able to do an excellent job of not moving too fast or making things confusing for those that have no knowledge of the book series.

Harrington himself had no knowledge of the books before being cast in the pilot, although he has since read all four of them.

"There is a balancing act in that you've got to take it (the role) and make it your own, but also you've got to not make it so much your own that it's not the character anymore," Harrington said.

Game of Thrones premiers Sunday 9 p.m. ET on HBO Canada.

A royal cocktail

Raise a glass to Kate and William with this tipple

Charlotte Voisey is a mixologist for William Grant & Sons. She has created signature cocktails in celebration of the monarchy's ties to Canada. This one, aptly named Commonwealth Celebration, combines Irish whiskey with a dash of maple syrup.

Ingredients

- 1 1/2 oz (45 mL) Tullamore Dew Irish Whiskey
- 1 oz (30 mL) Dubonnet Rouge
- 1/2 oz (15 mL) Apricot Brandy
- 1/4 oz (10 mL) maple syrup

Method

Combine all of the ingredients and stir well. Strain the drink into a stemmed cocktail glass. Garnish with an orange spiral. NICOLE KEEN/ WEDDINGBELLS

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US aid winning friends in flood-ravaged Pakistan
Grilled Two-Cheese Sandwich with Tomatoes
Angry flight attendant gets bail, suspended
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Green party's top job not up for grabs

TV picks

Friday Night Lights is back

DRAMA. Friday Night Lights returns to TV, and Coach Taylor tempers high expectations for the upcoming season; Tami is frustrated with her new job; two alumni prepare to leave for college. (Friday, NBC)

Get the scoop on the Judds

DOCU-SERIES. The private lives of country music stars Naomi and Wynonna Judd are on display in the docu-series, The Judds. Six one-hour episodes kick off tonight with the promise of an emotional journey for mother and daughter preparing for a final tour. The series is expected to follow the country sensations' life on a 400-hectare farm. (Friday, OWN)

Prep for the royal wedding

REALITY. Bone up on the history behind the Wills and Kate romance with a repeat primer on their courtship. William and Kate The Royal Wedding goes over the highlights of the couple's romance. (Saturday, PBS)

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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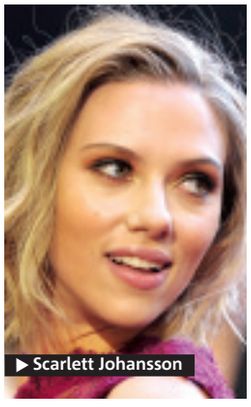
Has Scarlett moved in with Sean Penn?

Sources say they're living together at Penn's mansion


▶ Scarlett Johansson

▶ Sean Penn

Scarlett Johansson is reportedly living with Sean Penn now after three months of dating, according to Us Weekly.

The Iron Man 2 actress has been spending most of her time at Penn's $3.8 million Malibu home and "has essentially moved in over the last few weeks," sources tell the magazine. They say the pair have been keeping their public outings to a minimum and prefer to "just stay home" when they can. METRO

ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES FILE

▶ Jennifer Aniston

Aniston, Cooper 'in contact'

After one alleged date in 2009, Jennifer Aniston and newly single Bradley Cooper are now reportedly back in touch, according to People magazine.

"In the past few weeks, they have stayed in contact," a source says.

"Jen always had a soft spot for Bradley, and she thinks he is very attractive and charming." When their first outing two years ago was caught by paparazzi, Cooper quickly dismissed any romantic notions, saying, "She's a friend of mine. Simply, simply, just a friend." METRO

Celebrity tweets

@justinbieber

"im just excited at this pt to get on stage and perform. gonna take a little break from twitter and enjoy this time with my family until then"

@pattonoswalt

"Is "throw [someone] under the bus" based on a real thing? Did a person literally throw someone under a bus & it helped their career?"

@CarrieFFisher

"gone to extremes- back soon...?"

Bryant fined for slur

Kobe Bryant was fined $100,000 for using a homophobic slur against a referee during an exchange that was picked up on live TV, according to TMZ.

"What I said last night should not be taken literally. My actions were out of frustration during the heat of the game, period," Bryant says in a statement. "The words expressed do not reflect my feelings towards the gay and lesbian communities and were not meant to offend anyone." METRO

Scott leaves rehab

Seann William Scott has left rehab after completing a 30-stint for as-yet-undisclosed "health and personal reasons," according to Us Weekly. The American Pie actor "completed a successful treatment program," his rep confirms to the magazine. "He is looking forward to beginning production next month on American Reunion for Universal Pictures." METRO

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Ford Fusion a solid bet for a used sporty sedan
Shopping out a used Fusion? It's a sporty and unique sedan that doesn't blend into the endless sea of Camrys
Linamar stock slides despite Q3 turnaround
TORONTO - Linamar Corp. (TSX:LNR) stock continued its recent sharp slide Friday, a day after the auto parts maker turned in an earnings report that fell slightly below estimates and announced that...
metro auto pilot
Don't leave traction to technology
Every time I feel the need to discuss grip I talk to Pierre Sasey, chief instructor of the BMW Canada Winter Driving School.
You'll need that ice scraper sooner than you think
You see some scary things around Halloween, but none more so than unprepared vehicle.
Hybrid cars: Looking for a few more buyers
Hybrids have arrived, you? Well, me thinks "yes" and "no." Hybrid technology has certainly arrived.
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DON'T JUST DRIVE
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Celebrity chef goes for wine-country red
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Mesmerizing MacMurray ranch & wine

PETER ROCKWELL
LIQUIDASSETS@EASTLINK.CA
TWITTER: @THEREALWINEGUY

Though I'm not easily impressed, sparkling personality and stunning vineyard views had me at hello at California's Sonoma County.

I was visiting MacMurray Ranch in the gorgeous Russian River Valley. Now owned by E & J Gallo, it was originally a cattle ranch built by Fred MacMurray — Hollywood icon and star of TV's My Three Sons.

I got a sense of how important the ranch was to him from my tour guide: His daughter Kate, who lives in a cabin built by her dad.

The property came to life during a tour with Kate. Between stories of Tinseltown royalty that hung out at the ranch, our conversation turned to wine and how pinot noir has become synonymous with her surname.

One of her favourites is the MacMurray Ranch 2007 Sonoma Coast Pinot Noir ($19.99 - $30.79) - a plump, berry-driven red that makes a great match for grilled salmon and roast chicken.

PRICES REFLECT THE RANGE ACROSS CANADA. SOME PRODUCTS MAY NOT BE AVAILABLE IN ALL PROVINCES.

Give breakfast a fancy makeover

This weekend, skip the tired eggs and bacon and try this elegant French toast, or fried egg and tuna toast These recipes take a few easy steps

BOTH PHOTOS: THE CANADIAN PRESS H/O

Fried Egg and Tuna Toast, and French Toast Grilled Cheese help to make breakfast more decadent.

DINNER EXPRESS

EMILY RICHARDS
FOOD@METRONEWS.CA

These simple recipes contain decadent breakfast flavours.

The first, French Toast Grilled Cheese, is the creation of executive chef Melissa Craig of the Bearfoot Bistro in Whistler, B.C. The second, Fried Egg and Tuna Toast, uses English muffins or olive bread.

French Toast Grilled Cheese Sandwich

Ingredients:

- 1 loaf of walnut dried cranberry bread
- 1 wheel (8 oz/250 g) camembert cheese
- 3 eggs
- 1/4 cup (50 mL) 15% or 18% table cream
- Salt and pepper
- 1/4 cup (50 mL) unsalted butter

Honey Pepper Roasted Figs:

- 8 ripe figs
- 1 tbsp (15 mL) unsalted butter
- 2 tbsp (25 mL) wildflower honey
- 1 tbsp (15 mL) Port wine
- 1/4 tsp (1 mL) cracked black pepper
- Pinch fresh tarragon

Preparation:

1. Slice cranberry bread into 6 x 1/2-inch (8 cm x 1 cm) slices. In bowl, whisk eggs with cream, salt and pepper. Soak bread in egg mix for 1 minute on each side.
2. In skillet set over medium heat brown bread. Slice cheese and place on half of the toast; top with remaining toast. Place on baking sheet; before serving, place in 350 F (180 C) oven to melt cheese.
3. Cut stems off figs and cut in half. In heavy-bottom saucepan, melt butter over medium heat and add figs, sauté gently for 2 minutes. Add honey and port and reduce by half until syrupy consistency. Stir in cracked pepper and fresh tarragon. Slice heated sandwich in two and spoon figs and syrup over top. **THE CANADIAN PRESS/ ALLYOUNEEDISCHEESE.CA/GRILLED CHEESE**

Fried Egg and Tuna Toast

Ingredients:

- 2 cans (85 g each) solid light tuna-yellowfin in olive oil
- 4 eggs
- 4 slices olive bread or multi grain English muffins
- 1 avocado, sliced
- 1/4 cup (50 mL) chopped sundried tomatoes

Preparation:

1. Drain tuna, reserving oil. Set tuna aside.
2. In skillet heat tuna oil. Add eggs and cook for about 3 minutes until or desired doneness.
3. Meanwhile, toast bread. Top with avocado and tuna. Top each with egg and sprinkle with sundried tomatoes.

THE CANADIAN PRESS/ CLOVER LEAF

EMILY RICHARDS IS A PROFESSIONAL HOME ECONOMIST, COOKBOOK AUTHOR AND TV CELEBRITY CHEF. VISIT EMILYRICHARDSCOOK.CA.

3 life

Food Allergens

The Canadian Food Inspection Agency says Canadians with food allergies should take these precautions:

- Read labels and look for precautionary statements.
- Stay away from products if you don't recognize an ingredient.
- Carry an epinephrine/ adrenaline auto-injector at all times. **NEWS CANADA**

Ninety-two per cent of manufactures now offer healthier foods.

Metro has your spring/summer wardrobe covered with fab picks from your fave retailers Colour has always been an integral part of fashion, but rarely has it been so popular to sport the brightest palettes possible

Make your wardrobe pop this season

ELIZABETH BEDDALL
LIFE@METRONEWS.CA

1

2

3

4

5

6

1 LEATHER CLUTCH
Winners Designer Clutch
$129, winners.ca

2 BLUE ONE-PIECE
Attitude One-Piece
$49, sears.ca

3 NEON DRESS
H&M Neon Dress
$TBA, hm.com/ca

4 CROPPED LEGGING
Gap Colour Washed Pants
$69, gapcanada.ca

5 HOT PINK SHORTS
H&M Hot Pink Shorts
$69, hm.com/ca

6 PURPLE BLAZER
H&M Purple Blazer
$TBA, hm.com/ca

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▶ Hercho

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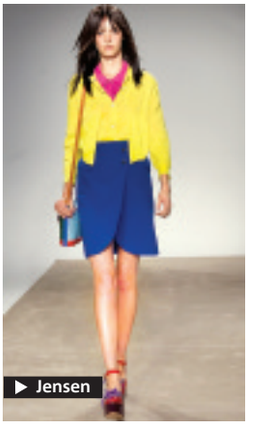
▶ Jensen

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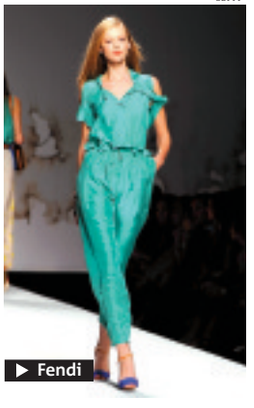
▶ Fendi

3 ORANGE YOU BEAUTIFUL...

Some might be quick to shy away from this bold colour, but if the runways told us anything, it was that carrot, salmon and tangerine are all on the menu this season...

Jessica Kimono Top
▶ $34, sears.ca

Banana Republic clutch
▶ $124, bananarepublic.ca

H&M Maxi Dress
▶ $69, hm.com/ca

2 NATURAL WOMAN

It's just as sweet to go simple. If someone calls you a Plain Jane this season, consider it a compliment.

▶ H&M Minimalist Dress
$59, hm.com/ca

▶ Meredith Dress
$198, clubmonaco.ca

Spring's sweetest scents

1 BOYFRIEND
Kate Walsh Boyfriend
$72, sephora.ca

2 STELLA

3 DAISY
Daisy by Marc Jacobs
$75, sephora.ca

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ladies linen separates
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Six must-haves for men

Want to embody the essence of cool this spring? Not only are these items trendy, they're also durable and classically stylish Get set to turn heads with a new look — and remember, guys, roll-up your pant cuffs!

1

The nautical sweater
Joe Fresh Sweater
$49, joefresh.ca

2

The straw fedora
H&M straw hat
$TBA, hm.com/ca

3

The sturdy watch
Thomas Sabo Watch
$359, thomassabo.com

4

The checkered shirt
Nevada Sportshirt
$39, sears.ca

5

The colour-pop trouser
Gap Colour-Washed Jeans
$59, gapcanada.ca

6

The slip-on deck shoe
Tretorn Suede Shoe
$119, tretorn.com

ELIZABETH BEDDALL

For the hot season designers are drawing inspiration from the 1970s Go get your hippie on with these easy-breezy pieces

Bohemian beautiful

Winners Peasant Blouse
$16, winners.ca

Le Chateau Flare Trousers
$89, lechateau.com

Smart Set Skirt
$40, smartset.ca

Winners platform
$ 69, winners.ca

FRAZER HARRISON/GETTY IMAGES FOR TRESEMME

Tracy Reese

GETTY

Peter Jensen

2 MAXI-MIZE YOUR STYLE

Shoulder-to-toe maxi dresses flooded the spring/summer runways.

1 PATTERNED MAXI
Old Navy Black Patterned Maxi
$44, oldnavy.ca

2 SATIN DRESS
Satin Abstract Print Gown
$225, lechateau.ca

Flyers can't solve Sabres' Miller

1	0
SABRES	FLYERS

Ryan Miller stopped 35 shots for his second career post-season shutout and Patrick Kaleta scored to lift the Buffalo Sabres to a 1-0 win over the Philadelphia Flyers in Game 1 of their Eastern Conference playoff series Thursday night.

Miller stopped every shot under all types of pressure and carried the Sabres to the clutch opening win. The teams have met eight times in the post-season and the Game 1 winner won the series each time.

The Sabres — 10 points out of a playoff spot on Jan. 17 — cracked the scoreless tie 5:56 into the third period on Kaleta's second career post-season goal.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

BRUCE BENNETT/GETTY IMAGES

▶ Ryan Miller makes a save Thursday night.

Price comes up big for Habs in Beantown

Canadiens goalie turns aside 31 shots in Game 1 victory

2	0
CANADIENS	BRUINS

Carey Price returned as Montreal's starting playoff goalie with his third post-season shutout and Brian Gionta scored twice as the Canadiens opened their series in Boston with a 2-0 win on Thursday night.

Price started just one of the Canadiens' 19 playoff games last year when they were seeded eighth but reached the Eastern Conference finals before losing to the Philadelphia Flyers. Jaroslav Halak, who was traded to St. Louis, started the rest.

This season Price started 70 games for the Habs and was outstanding in Game 1.

Gionta scored at 2:45 of the first period on a pass from Scott Gomez from the left boards. Gionta and Matthew Darche both got behind the Bruins defence with Darche directly in front of goalie Tim Thomas and Gionta on the right side of the crease. Darche let the puck go by and Gionta put it in between Thomas and the post.

Gomez also assisted on Gionta's other goal at 16:42 of the third period.

The game was played cleanly without any fights. The heated rivals had several physical confrontations during the regular season.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

698825

CHARLES KRUPA/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

▶ Montreal Canadiens goalie Carey Price makes a save on Boston's Brad Marchand last night.

Damphousse facing spousal abuse charges

Former NHL star Vincent Damphousse has been charged with six counts of assaulting his spouse.

The alleged incidents occurred between 2008 and just a few weeks ago.

A document obtained at the Montreal courthouse Thursday outlined the charges. Damphousse did not appear in court, but his lawyer Michel Dorval issued a statement saying Damphousse denies all the allegations and has filed charges against his wife for "assaults."

The brief statement said that Damphousse would not comment publicly because the case was before the courts.

In 1,378 NHL games, he scored 432 goals and amassed 1,205 points.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Sports in brief

Ace helps with medical bills

MLB. Giants ace Tim Lincecum is giving $25,000 US to assist a San Francisco fan who was attacked outside Dodger Stadium last month. The donation will go to the Bryan Stow Fund to help with the 42-year-old paramedic's medical bills and other expenses. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Man City to hit Vancouver

MLS. The Vancouver Whitecaps will play an exhibition game against Manchester City in July. The friendly will be held July 2, Whitecaps CEO Paul Barber announced Thursday. THE CANADIAN PRESS

4 sports

Quoted

"We know who Mr. Chara is and we don't have to apprehend him at customs."

SGT. IAN LAFRENIERE ON BOSTON'S ZDENO CHARA WHOSE HIT SIDELINED HABS FORWARD MAX PACIORETTY, SPARKING A POLICE INVESTIGATION AND PUBLIC OUTCRY FOR TOUGHER RULES AGAINST HOCKEY VIOLENCE. POLICE SAY ITS UNLIKELY THEY'LL EVEN WANT TO SPEAK TO THE BRUINS DEFENCEMAN WHEN THEIR STANLEY CUP PLAYOFF SERIES VS. THE CANADIENS SWITCHES TO MONTREAL ON MONDAY.

Scan code for more sports

Heat's Bosh itching for playoffs to start

Former Raptor has just three wins in 12 career post-season games

Chris Bosh stammered slightly when trying to explain how NBA playoff games are rougher and tougher than ones in the regular season.

He had to really think about his answer.

"Yeah, it's been a while for me," Bosh said.

That's one of the many reasons why Bosh came to the Miami Heat, who expect a bit more than just getting out of the first round.

Miami's post-season starts Saturday, when the Philadelphia 76ers visit for Game 1 of the Eastern Conference quarter-finals. To say Bosh has been waiting somewhat impatiently for the playoff challenge to arrive, well, that also would be quite an understatement.

CLAUS ANDERSEN/GETTY IMAGES

▶ Chris Bosh

"The past week felt like a month," Bosh said as the regular season wound down. "It's gone by very slow."

From the first day Bosh joined LeBron James and Dwyane Wade in Miami, the Heat have been vilified. Bosh took that harder than most at times. Then, just before the all-star break, he said he felt "unappreciated" by some around the league.

"But my teammates here appreciate me," Bosh said.

That was proven over the season's final month when the Heat started giving Bosh the ball more. His field goal percentage rose six per cent over the season's final five weeks.

The Heat were the only team with three players ranked among the NBA's top-25 scorers this season, with James second (26.7) and Wade fourth (25.5). Bosh's 18.7 ranked 24th.

That makes him often Miami's forgotten man. The last time Bosh won a championship was high school. With the Raptors, he never even really got to know what leading a series felt like.

He has waited a long time to change his playoff fortunes. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NBA Playoff matchups

Eastern Conference

- Bulls (1) vs. Pacers (8)
- Heat (2) vs. Sixers (7)
- Celtics (3) vs. Knicks (6)
- Magic (4) vs. Hawks(5)

Western Conference

- Spurs (1) vs. Grizzlies (8)
- Lakers (2) vs. Hornets (7)
- Mavs (3) vs. Blazers (6)
- Thunder (4) vs. Nuggets (5)

Clay. Collapse

▶ Milos Raonic reacts Thursday during his match against David Ferrer in Monaco.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Flustered by Ferrer

Milos Raonic's clay-court debut came to a grinding halt Thursday in a 6-1, 6-3 loss to Spain's David Ferrer in the third round of the Monte Carlo Masters. The 20-year-old from Thornhill, Ont., was overwhelmed for the second time this season by Ferrer.

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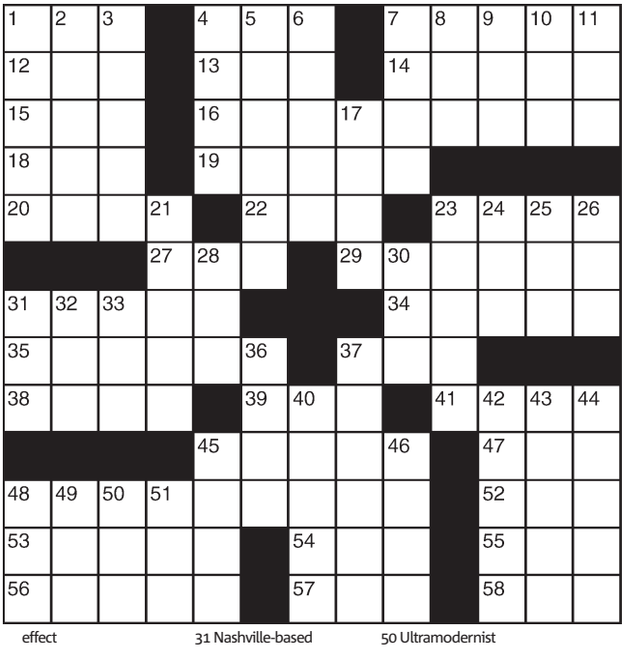

Across

1 Symbol of intrigue
4 iPhone download
7 Nut job
12 Actress Longoria
13 Meadow
14 Foreigner
15 Part of UCLA
16 Beatles ditty
18 Schuss
19 Heavens above
20 "Phooey!"
22 Green prefix
23 Castro's home
27 Young fellow
29 Trafalgar admiral
31 Daniel who's played 007
34 Prepared
35 Gilligan's boat
37 Scratch
38 Carry
39 Simile center
41 Entanglement
45 Its participants must form a line
47 Spring mo.
48 "The Swedish Nightingale"
52 Conk out
53 Alaskan islander
54 Nourished
55 Cozy lodging
56 Boston newspaper
57 Wayne and Worth (Abbr.)
58 Roulette bet

Down

1 People of Pontypridd
2 Bring forth
3 Fundamental
4 Swiss range
5 Cheated at hide-seek
6 "War of the Worlds" effect
7 Methods
8 Every iota
9 Spy-novel org.
10 Jennings of "Jeopardy!"
11 Inseparable
17 Night light?
21 "A Fish Called Wanda" Oscar winner
23 Office worker
24 N.A. portion
25 Physique
26 Whatever number
28 Past
30 Historic time
31 Nashville-based MTV offshoot
32 Carnival city
33 Pismire
36 Cry like a banshee
37 Fridge decoration
40 Check for smells
42 Bottom
43 Put one's two cents in
44 Pollster's find
45 Info measure
46 Toteboard tally
48 Show that spawned "NCIS"
49 Right angle
50 Ultramodernist
51 Gist

▶ Yesterday's answer

Sudoku

How to play

Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic.

Yesterday's answer ▶

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Maria Caputo
Happy Birthday Maria! Enjoy YOUR special day my friend. **LAILA OX**

Your a great friend, but I think about you more than just that. One day you'll see how much you mean to me than just being one of my best friends. **EBONY**

My dearest B-Dawg, Don't let them haters keep you off your grind. As soon as you hit the stage, applause you'll be hearing it. Just hop out of bed and turn your swag on. You'll be ground shakin', show stoppin', amazing. **M. BROWN**

Valerie, You are the most beautiful person both inside and out that I have ever met. There is no other for me. Maury and all the gang miss the number one pea of the pod. Please forgive and give this silly pea another chance. Love, **THE OTHER PEA**

A look at the weather

TODAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
Min -4° Max 3°	Min -3° Max 5°	Min -3° Max 6°

BT BREAKFAST TELEVISION

Jenna Khan, Weather Specialist

"Weather impacts everything we do. Providing the information you need before you head out that door and take on the day is the best part of my morning." **WEEKDAYS 6AM**

Today's horoscope

For today's crossword answers and for expanded horoscopes, go to metronews.ca

♈ Aries March 21-April 20 If you make a wish, it may come true. But it may not be in the way you expected it to.

♉ Taurus April 21-May 21 The less others know about you, the more you will profit.

♊ Gemini May 22-June 21 Don't be vague — put a name to your desire. Identify what you hope to accomplish.

♋ Cancer June 22-July 22 You will have good ideas today. Be careful that you don't let your imagination run out of control.

♌ Leo July 23-Aug.23 You want to challenge those who claim to be experts. Do you have enough facts to take them on?

♍ Virgo Aug. 24- Sept. 22 Someone is aiming to get rich at your expense. But it will only happen if you let it.

♎ Libra Sept. 23-Oct. 23 You'll have to make an effort to get along with people you may not always get along with.

♏ Scorpio Oct. 24-Nov. 22 Think about cutting back the amount of work you're doing.

♐ Sagittarius Nov. 23-Dec. 21 No matter how difficult it's been lately, you must cheer up.

♑ Capricorn Dec. 22-Jan. 20 If you have not come to grips with a career problem, you must get serious about it now.

♒ Aquarius Jan. 21-Feb. 18 You may not be thrilled by the answers to questions you've been asking, but it's the truth.

♓ Pisces Feb. 19-March 20. The only way to tell if an offer is right is to ask someone you trust. SALLY BROMPTON

Caption contest

THE AP/ DAPD, BERTHOLD STADLER

LUCA BRUNO/ THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WIN!

You write it!

Write a funny caption for the image above and send it to play@metronews.ca — the winning caption will be published in tomorrow's Metro.

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SATURDAY, APRIL 16 ONLY!

20x

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COCA-COLA or PEPSI REGULAR or DIET 2L Selected flavours Limit 6 + Deposit & Enviro Levy Where Applicable

3/$5 or 2.49 case

ROYALE 2-PLY (24 Roll), DOUBLE or 3-PLY (12 Roll) BATHROOM TISSUE Limit 4. After limit 8.99

4.99 each

BOUNCE ULTRA SHEETS (120's), DOWNY (1.23L) FABRIC SOFTENER or TIDE (1.18L) LIQUID LAUNDRY DETERGENT Selected Types

5.99 each

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1.99 each

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HARRY POTTER AND THE DEATHLY HALLOWS DVD

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